

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a method of making one or more user interfaces for real time communication less intrusive by automatically adjusting the one or more user interfaces based on the user's level of interaction over a period of time, the method comprising acts of:

displaying an intermediate representation of a user interface for real time communication, the intermediate representation including a text input box and at least a portion of a received real time message;

monitoring user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface, the user interaction including one or more of the following over a period of time: hovering over the intermediate representation with a pointing device and selecting an element in the real time communication interface with the pointing device; and performing at least one of:

determining that, during the period of time, the level of user interaction warranted an increased size of the intermediate representation of the user interface; and

~~upon receiving an increased level of interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface, based on the~~
determination, automatically enlarging the size of the intermediate
representation of the user interface to an enlarged representation
appropriate for the ~~increased~~ detected level of interaction, wherein the
enlarged representation includes the text input box; and

determining that, during the period of time, the level of interaction
warranted a decreased size of the intermediate representation of the user interface;
and

~~upon receiving a decreased level of interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface; based on the determination, automatically reducing the size of the intermediate representation of the user interface to a reduced representation appropriate for the decreased level of interaction.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reduced representation includes the text input box.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the acts of automatically enlarging and reducing the intermediate representation of the user interface occur without an explicit input to reduce or enlarge the intermediate representation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the enlarged representation corresponds to a maximized state for the user interface, and wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface corresponds to a minimized state for the user interface.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising an act of, upon automatically reducing the intermediate representation to a reduced representation, displaying a message to indicate where the reduced representation is located.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the increased level of interaction comprises one or more of hovering over the intermediate representation and clicking a pointing device on the intermediate representation.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the increased level of interaction comprises typing text in the text input box, and wherein the enlarge representation comprises a send option, the method further comprising an act of automatically reducing the enlarged representation to the intermediate representation upon selection of the send option.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is displayed within a desktop bar.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the desktop bar also displays a contact representation, the method further comprising an act of, upon dragging and dropping a file object onto the contact representation, displaying a real time message window that includes the file object and an option to send the file object to a contact associated with the contact representation.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising an act of highlighting the contact representation when one or more real time messages are received from the contact associated with the contact representation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the contact representation comprises a user definable icon.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the desktop bar displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces simultaneously with the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising an act of automatically reducing or enlarging the one or more representations of the one or more other user interfaces when the intermediate representation is automatically enlarged or reduced.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more other user interfaces comprise one or more of a calendar object, a streaming video object, a streaming audio object, and a contact list.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reduced representation of the user interface for real time communication comprises a selectable icon.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is automatically reduced to the reduced representation, the method further comprising an act of displaying one or more received real time messages adjacent the reduced representation for at least a predetermined period of time.

17. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a method of simplifying user interaction with one or more real time communication user interfaces by adapting the one or more user interfaces to the user's activity level measured over a period of time, the method comprising steps for:

monitoring user ~~input directed to~~ interaction with an initial representation of a user interface for real time communication, the user interaction including one or more of the following over a period of time: hovering over the intermediate representation with a pointing device and selecting an element in the real time communication interface with the pointing device; and

determining a size adjustment based on the monitored level of user interaction with the initial representation of the user interface; and

automatically applying the determined size adjustment to ~~adapting the~~ initial representation of the user interface ~~to the user's activity level based on the monitored user input, wherein adapting the initial representation produces at least one of an intermediate representation of the user interface that includes a text input box, a larger representation of the user interface that also includes the text input box, or a smaller representation of the user interface.~~

18-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step for automatically adapting applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface ~~to the user's activity level~~ based on the monitored level of user interaction occurs without an explicit input to reduce or enlarge the initial representation.

21-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 49, wherein the initial representation of the user interface comprises the text input box and a send option, and wherein

~~the act of~~ reducing the initial representation of the user interface is in response to the user selecting the send option.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~ 49, ~~wherein the initial representation of the user interface is reduced to the smaller representation,~~ the method further comprising a step for indicating where the ~~smaller~~ reduced representation may be found.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the ~~smaller~~ reduced representation comprises a conversation balloon.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication in a desktop bar.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the desktop bar also displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising a step for automatically adapting the one or more other user interfaces to account for one of more size changes in the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication.

29. (Currently Amended) For a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media carrying computer executable instruction that implement a method of making one or more user interfaces for real time communication less intrusive by automatically adjusting the one or more user interfaces based on the user's level of interaction over a period of time, the method comprising acts of:

displaying an intermediate representation of a user interface for real time communication, the intermediate representation including a text input box and at least a portion of a received real time message;

monitoring user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface, the user interaction including one or more of the following over a period of time: hovering over the intermediate representation with a pointing device and selecting an element in the real time communication interface with the pointing device; and performing at least one of:

determining that, during the period of time, the level of user interaction warranted an increased size of the intermediate representation of the user interface; and

~~upon receiving an increased level of interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface, based on the determination,~~ automatically enlarging the size of the intermediate representation of the user interface to an enlarged representation appropriate for the increased detected level of interaction, wherein the enlarged representation includes the text input box; and
determining that, during the period of time, the level of interaction warranted a decreased size of the intermediate representation of the user interface;
and

~~upon receiving a decreased level of interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface, based on the determination,~~ automatically reducing the size of the intermediate

representation of the user interface to a reduced representation appropriate for the decreased level of interaction.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the act of automatically reducing the intermediate interface occurs without an explicit input to reduce the intermediate representation.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface corresponds to a minimized state for the user interface.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising an act of, upon automatically reducing the intermediate representation to a reduced representation, displaying a message to indicate where the reduced representation is located.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the reduced representation of the user interface for real time communication comprises a selectable icon, the method further comprising an act of displaying one or more received real time messages adjacent the selectable icon for at least a predetermined period of time.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 33, the method further comprising an act of enlarging the selectable icon representation of the user interface for real time communication in response to the user interacting with the one or more real time message displayed adjacent to the selectable icon.

35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the increased level of interaction comprises a text entry in the text input box.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is displayed within a desktop bar and wherein the desktop bar displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces simultaneously with the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time

communication, the method further comprising an act of automatically reducing or enlarging the one or more representations of the one or more other user interfaces when the intermediate representation is automatically enlarged or reduced.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the one or more other user interfaces comprise one or more of a calendar object, a streaming video object, a streaming audio object, and a contact list.

38. (Currently Amended) For a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media carrying computer executable instructions that implement a method of simplifying user interaction with one or more real time communication user interfaces by adapting the one or more user interfaces to the user's activity level over a period of time, the method comprising steps for:

~~monitoring user input directed to interaction with an initial representation of a user interface for real time communication, the user interaction including one or more of the following over a period of time: hovering over the intermediate representation with a pointing device and selecting an element in the real time communication interface with the pointing device; and~~

~~determining a size adjustment based on the monitored level of user interaction with the initial representation of the user interface; and~~

~~automatically applying the determined size adjustment to adapting the initial representation of the user interface to the user's activity level based on the monitored user input, wherein adapting the initial representation produces at least one of an intermediate representation of the user interface that includes a text input box, a larger representation of the user interface that also includes the text input box, or a smaller representation of the user interface.~~

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38, the method further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the step for automatically adapting applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface to the user's activity level based on the monitored level of user interaction occurs without an explicit input to reduce or enlarge the initial representation.

41-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 42 52, wherein the initial representation of the user interface comprises the text input box and a send option, and wherein the ~~act of~~ reducing the initial representation of the user interface is in response to the user selecting the send option.

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38, further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication in a desktop bar that also displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces.

46. (Original) The computer program product of claim 45, further comprising a step for automatically adapting the one or more other user interfaces to account for changes in the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication.

47. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising automatically adjusting subsequent representations of the user interface according to a periodic interval.

48. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises enlarging at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

49. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises reducing at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

50. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises maintaining the current size of at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

51. (New) The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the step for automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises enlarging at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

52. (New) The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the step for automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises reducing at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

53. (New) The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the step for automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises maintaining the current size of at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.